

The following is a complete listing of all claims in the application,  
with an indication of the status of each:

**Listing of claims:**

1 1 (Currently Amended). A process for producing veneer strips, or chipped wood,  
2 comprising: or the like,  
3 forming a plurality of wood groups, each of said wood groups comprising a  
4 plurality of board portions positioned in a stacked manner, with their respective  
5 grains parallel to one another and to a given grain direction ~~individual pieces of wood~~  
6 ~~being joined together, with grains parallel, to form a group and then a multiplicity of~~  
7 ~~such groups being:~~  
8 arranging arranged a plurality of said wood groups one behind the other in a  
9 line extending in a longitudinal direction, with their respective grains parallel to said  
10 grain direction, to form a closely packed line of said wood groups, comprising a  
11 leading group and a plurality of successive groups;  
12 feeding said ~~whereupon this line is then fed~~ in its said longitudinal direction,  
13 ~~transverse to said the wood-grain direction, toward~~ a chipping tool, at an  
14 advancement speed, such that said leading group is cut by said chipping tool exerting  
15 a cutting force on said leading group; ~~wherein the leading group conveyed up against~~  
16 ~~the chipping tool is subjected, via the following group butting against it, to~~  
17 applying a longitudinal compressive force which acts in said the longitudinal  
18 ~~direction of the line, in a manner such that said force urges said leading group by a~~  
19 successive group immediately succeeding said leading group, wherein said  
20 longitudinal compressive force; ~~which exceeds the relative said cutting force to which~~  
21 ~~the leading group is subjected by the cutting tool; and~~  
22 braking the advancement speed which is largely absorbed by the of said  
23 ~~leading group, which, by way of its advancement speed being braked, such that said~~  
24 leading group acts as an abutment to substantially absorb said longitudinal force.

1 2 (Currently Amended). The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the  
2 ~~aforementioned~~ said longitudinal compressive force ~~generates produces~~, at least  
3 ~~between the front two groups in the line~~, an adhesion, between said leading group and  
4 the successive group immediately succeeding said leading group, which exceeds said  
5 ~~the aforementioned~~ cutting force.

1 3 (Currently Amended). The process of ~~as claimed in~~ claim 1, wherein, ~~in order to~~  
2 ~~increase the adhesion between successive groups, the further comprising moistening~~  
3 mutually facing longitudinal edges of at least two of said successive groups ~~the latter~~  
4 ~~are moistened~~ sufficiently to increase adhesion between said at least two successive  
5 groups, preferably immediately before the groups are formed.

1 4 (Currently amended). The process of ~~as claimed in~~ claim 1, wherein said  
2 longitudinal force is applied such that the longitudinal compressive force ~~which is at~~  
3 the interfaces between respective pairs of said wood groups ~~transmitted from the~~  
4 ~~respectively trailing group to the group preceding it~~ increases along ~~over the length of~~  
5 the line in the conveying direction ~~of the latter~~.

1 5 (Currently Amended). The process of ~~as claimed in~~ claim 1, wherein the  
2 ~~aforementioned~~ longitudinal compressive force is initially applied to said successive  
3 groups produced by a conveying apparatus elements which acts directly, in the  
4 conveying direction, on at least one of said successive groups ~~line-forming group in~~  
5 ~~the conveying direction of the line~~.

1 6 (Currently Amended). The process of ~~as claimed in~~ claim 5, wherein said  
2 conveying apparatus elements applies a force having a first magnitude in the  
3 conveying direction on at least one of said successive groups and applies a force  
4 having a second magnitude in the conveying direction on at least one other of said  
5 successive groups, wherein said first magnitude is ~~aet with~~ different than said second  
6 magnitude ~~advancement forces on a plurality of line-forming groups~~.

1 7 (Currently Amended). The process ~~of as claimed in~~ claim 1, wherein a vertical  
2 compressive force is applied to the leading group located immediately upstream of  
3 the chipping tool, ~~wherein said is additionally subjected to a preferably preselected~~  
4 vertical compressive force ~~which~~ acts over the height of the leading group.

1 8 (Currently Amended). The process ~~of as claimed in~~ claim 1, wherein a horizontal  
2 compressive force is applied to the leading group located immediately upstream of  
3 the chipping tool, ~~wherein said is additionally subjected to a preferably preselected~~  
4 horizontal compressive force ~~which~~ acts over the height of the leading group.

1 9 (Currently Amended). The process ~~of as claimed in~~ claim 7, wherein said feeding,  
2 said applying a longitudinal compressive force, and said braking the advancement  
3 speed of the leading group are performed so as to produce veneer strips or chipped  
4 wood of a given thickness, and wherein the vertical and/or horizontal force terminates  
5 is eliminated at a distance from the chipper tool which corresponds to between  
6 approximately one and two times once or twice the said given thickness of the veneer  
7 strips, chipped wood or the like which is/are to be produced.

10 (Cancelled).

1 11 (Currently Amended). An apparatus for producing veneer strips or chipped wood,  
2 comprising carrying out the process as claimed in one of the preceding claims,  
3 having:  
4 a) a chipping tool;  
5 b) a feed means for feeding a plurality of wood groups, each wood group  
6 being a stacked arrangement of planar wood pieces, toward said chipping tool, in  
7 manner such that plurality of wood groups are a line which is to be chipped and is  
8 made up of a multiplicity of groups of individual pieces of wood arranged fed in a  
9 successive manner, along a line, and are spaced closely together, one behind the  
10 other, and wherein said feed means includes

11 e a conveyor for conveying said plurality of said wood groups arrangement,  
12 which conveys the line in its in an advancement direction, said advancement direction  
13 being a longitudinal direction toward the chipping tool and conveying, said conveyor  
14 being constructed and arranged to elements which subject the line to apply an  
15 advancement force in the advancement direction to at least one of said wood groups  
16 such that the a leading group, which is the front wood group most proximal to the  
17 cutting tool in the line, which runs up in a braked manner against the chipping tool, is  
18 urged subjected, by at least one of the wood groups succeeding it, via the group  
19 following it, to with a longitudinal compressive force, said conveyor further including  
20 i) an adjusting means for adjusting said longitudinal compressive  
21 force to which exceeds the relative a cutting force to which the leading group  
22 is subjected by the chipping tool, and  
23 ii) a braking means for applying a braking force to said leading group  
24 at a location proximal to said cutting tool, said braking means having an  
25 adjustment means for adjusting said braking force so as to substantially absorb  
26 said longitudinal compressive force by said leading group acting as an  
27 abutment.

1 12 (Currently Amended). The apparatus of as claimed in claim 11, wherein said  
2 conveying elements act with braking means includes said conveyor being constructed  
3 and arranged to apply a first advancement force to at least one of said wood groups  
4 and a second advancement force to at least one other of said wood groups, said first  
5 advancement force having a magnitude different than said second advancement force  
6 force on the groups, wherein the difference in magnitude is such that said leading  
7 group acts as a run-on brake by being braked in relation to one or more of its spatially  
8 succeeding wood groups conveying elements which act on the group which runs up  
9 against the chipping tool causing this group to be braked in relation to following  
10 groups, with the result that the leading group has the effect of a run-on brake.

1 13 (Currently Amended). The apparatus ~~of as claimed in~~ claim 11, wherein the  
2 ~~conveying elements are designed as~~ conveyor includes at least one of a chain, belt or  
3 and roller conveyors.

14. (Cancelled).

1 15 (Currently Amended). The apparatus ~~of as claimed in~~ claim 13, wherein the  
2 ~~conveying elements comprise a multiplicity~~ conveyor includes a plurality of  
3 overlapping conveying chains.

1 16 (Currently Amended). The apparatus ~~of as claimed in~~ claim 11, wherein the  
2 conveyor is constructed and arranged to selectively urge at least one of said wood  
3 groups at a first advancement speed in the advancement direction and to selectively  
4 urge at least one other said wood groups at a second advancement speed in the  
5 advancement direction, and wherein the first advancement speed and the second  
6 advancement speed are independently selectable ~~the conveying elements can be~~  
7 ~~driven separately from one another and at different speeds.~~

1 17 (Currently Amended). The apparatus as claimed in claim 11, ~~which comprises~~  
2 wherein said braking means includes a clamping means having a vertically movable  
3 clamping bar upstream from and proximal to said chipping tool, constructed and  
4 arranged to selectively apply ~~drivable pressure exerting bar for acting on the leading~~  
5 ~~group with a vertical compressive clamping force to said leading group.~~

1 18 (Currently Amended). The apparatus ~~of as claimed in~~ claim 11, ~~which comprises~~  
2 wherein said braking means includes a clamping means having contact-pressure bars  
3 ~~which are arranged immediately upstream from and proximal to~~ of the chipping tool,  
4 on both sides of said feed line of said ~~the feed means, said contact-pressure bars~~  
5 constructed and arranged to be selectively movable in a horizontal direction ~~can be~~  
6 ~~driven horizontally, transversely to the~~ said feed line of said feed means, so as to

7 selectively apply a horizontal compressive force ~~and are intended for acting on the~~  
8 said leading group ~~with a horizontal compressive force.~~

1 19 (Currently Amended). The apparatus of as-claimed-in claim 11, wherein said  
2 chipping tool rotates in a plane and said feed line of said ~~the feed means forms as an a~~  
3 non-zero angle relative to the normal of said plane, said angle being at least one of a  
4 ~~with the horizontal and/or the~~ a vertical relative to said normal.

1 20 (Currently Amended). The apparatus of as-claimed-in claim 19, wherein the feed  
2 means is constructed and arranged to feed at least two parallel lines of said wood  
3 groups to said cutting tool, and wherein said feed means includes ~~subdivided by~~ at  
4 least one central partition wall extending ~~running~~ in the feed direction.

1 21 (Currently Amended). The apparatus of as-claimed-in claim 11, further comprising  
2 ~~wherein a feed conveyor~~ arranged upstream of the feed means for transferring the  
3 said wood groups to the feed means ~~is provided upstream of the feed means.~~

1 22 (Currently Amended). The apparatus of as-claimed-in claim 11, wherein the  
2 chipping tool is disk-type chipper having rotating knives.

1 23 (Currently Amended). The apparatus of as-claimed-in claim 22, wherein a  
2 stationary bridging bar is arranged immediately upstream of the disk-type chipper,  
3 approximately just a few tenths of a millimeter upstream of the rotating knives  
4 ~~thereof.~~

1 24 (Currently Amended). The apparatus of as-claimed-in claim 11, wherein the  
2 chipping tool is a knife-ring flaker.

- 1 25 (New). The process of claim 7, wherein said vertical compressive force has a  
2 selectable magnitude and further comprising a selecting of said magnitude.
- 1 26 (New). The process of claim 8, wherein said horizontal compressive force has a  
2 selectable magnitude and further comprising a selecting of said magnitude.
- 1 27 (New). The process of claim 8, wherein said feeding said line in said longitudinal  
2 direction, said applying a longitudinal compressive force, and said braking the  
3 advancement speed of the leading group are performed so as to produce veneer strips  
4 or chipped wood of a given thickness, and wherein the horizontal force terminates at  
5 a distance from the chipper tool which corresponds to between approximately one and  
6 two times said given thickness.
- 1 28 (New). The process of claim 9, wherein said vertical compressive force has a  
2 selectable magnitude and further comprising a selecting of said magnitude.
- 1 29 (New). The process of claim 27, wherein said horizontal compressive force has a  
2 selectable magnitude and further comprising a selecting of said magnitude.